

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OES-02 CG-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6142

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR TPHY BF

SUBJ: R/V EASTWARD

REF: NASSAU 1850

SUMMARY: GCOB MINEXTAFF NOW CONFIRMS THAT PERMISSION FOR SUBJECT RESEARCH PROJECT WILL NOT BE GRANTED. FISHERIES OFFICER BEALES IN CONVERSATION WITH DUKE UNIVERSITY SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL REPORTS THAT HE AGAIN GOT COLD SHOULDER AND HE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVER. DUKE SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT IT RUNS RISK OF ARREST OF EASTWARD IF VESSEL ENGAGES IN SHELF RESEARCH ON BAHAMIAN SHELF OR WITHIN BAHAMIAN WATERS.

1. SUBSEQUENT TO TRANSMISSION OF REFTEL, GCOB MINEXTAFF PERM-SEC RUSSELL CALLED EMBASSY TO REPORT THAT CHIEF FISHERIES OFFICER BEALES HAD TALKED WITH DUKE UNIVERSITY SCIENTIST DR. ERICK NELSON WHO HAD CONFIRMED EARLIER NOTIFICATION TO BEALES THAT DUKE HAD SCRAPPED PLANS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN "TERRITORY" OF BAHAMAS AND THAT DUKE COULD THEREFORE SEE NO POINT IN HAVING BEALES AS OBSERVER. NELSON REPORTEDLY SAID BEALES COULD JOIN VOYAGE AT COST TO DUKE OF TWO DAYS STEAMING, BUT MADE CLEAR UNIVERSITY'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THAT IDEA.

2. RUSSELL, OBVIOUSLY ANNOYED BUT TRYING TO MAINTAIN URBANITY,
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SAID THAT AS RESULT OF LATEST BEALES-DUKE CONVERSATION "THERE

IS NO QUESTION" BUT THAT PERMISSION FOR EASTWARD'S BAHAMIAN
LEG IS PERMANENTLY WITHDRAWN. RUSSELL IMPLIED THAT BEALES HAD
BEEN SEVERALY EMBARRASSED BY DUKE'S BEHAVIOR AND WONDERED
RHETORICALLY WHETHER DUKE'S ACTIONS WERE BASED ON POOR ORGANI-
ZATION OR DESIRE TO DOUBLE-DEAL. EMBASSY HAS DONE ITS BEST TO
SMOOTH OVER INCIDENT AND PREVENT GCOB REACTIONS TO IT FROM
SPILLING OVER INTO FUTURE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH REQUESTS.

3. EMBASSY HOPES THAT DUKE UNIVERSITY CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS
THAT BAHAMIAN PERMISSION FOR PROJECT IS REFUSED AND THAT
ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE BAHAMIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF OR BAHAMIAN
WATERS RUN A CLEAR RISK OF ARREST OF THE VESSEL.
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